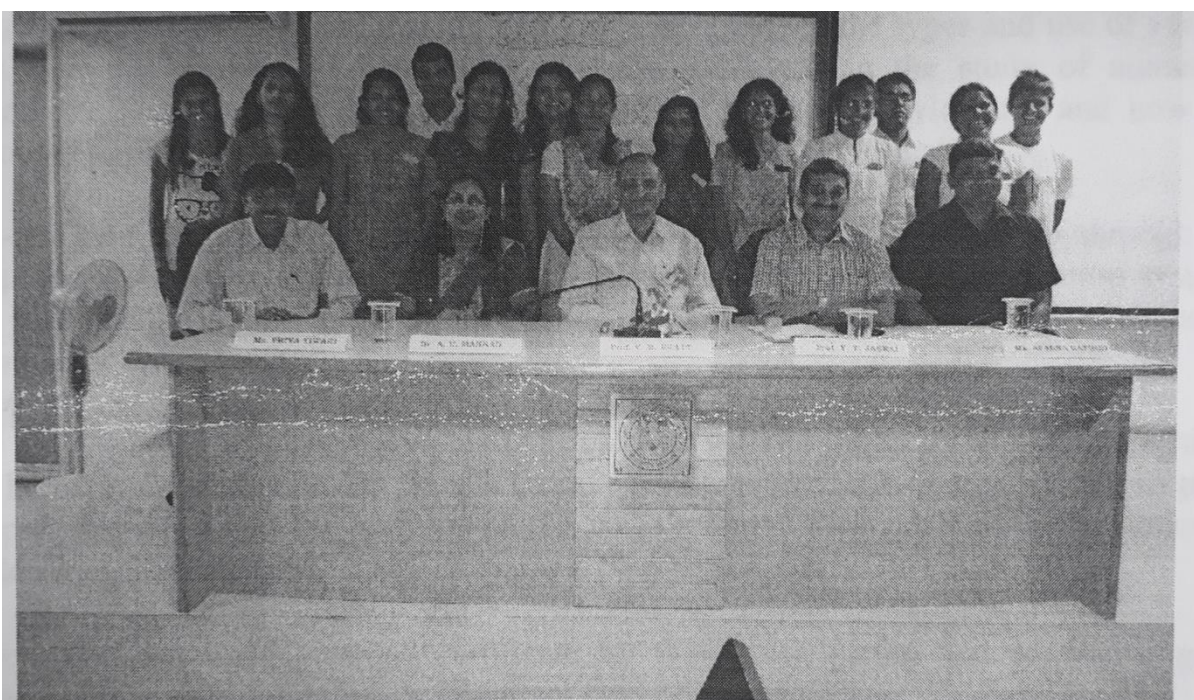


## GUBS ACTIVITIES 2011-2012

The inaugural function of Gujarat University Botanical Society (GUBS) for the year 2011-2012 was held on 8<sup>th</sup> August-2011. Prof. Yogesh Jasrai welcomed the new students and gave an over view of the various activities proposed for the year. This year the students activities would be co-ordinated by the staff-in-charge, Dr. Archana Mankad. Prof. Vasantkumar M. Bhatt, Director, School of Languages was the Chief Guest for the inaugural function. Addressing the students, Prof. Bhatt fondly recited verses from sanskrit literature-Kalidasa, wherein, names of plants and/or flowers were used as a symbolic description of beauty. The office bearers of GUBS and the class captains were coronated with badges.

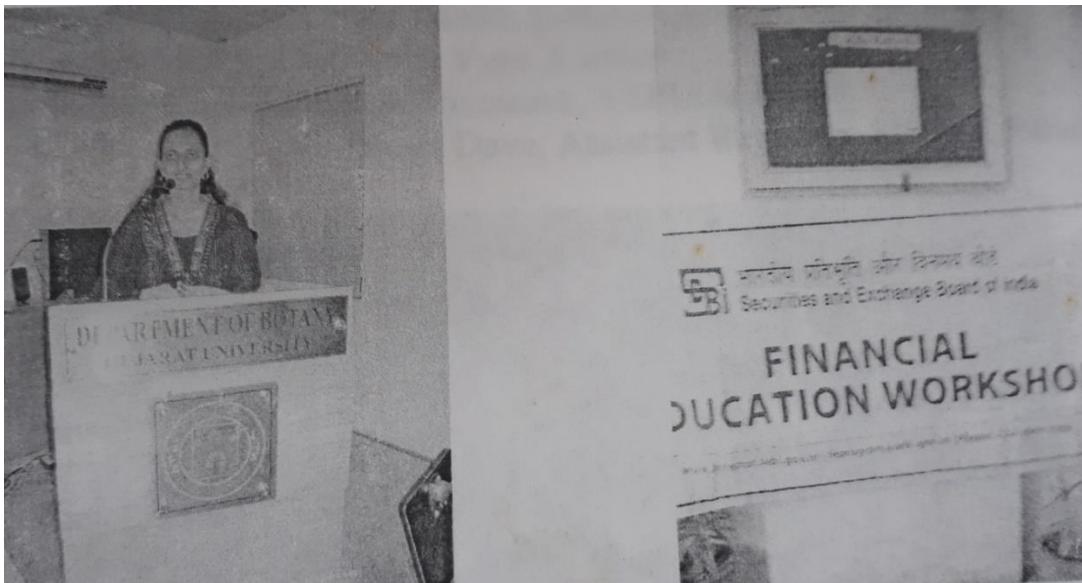


Dr.H.A.Solanki, Dr.A.U.Mankad, Prof.V. M.Bhatt (Chief Guest), Prof.Y.T.Jasrai, Dr.H.A.Pandya alongwith office bearers of GUBS and Class-Captains for 2011-2012 during the **Inaugural Function of GUBS**

GUBS-ECAP: GUJARAT UNIVERSITY BOTANICAL SOCIETY EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES FOR PERSONALITY was initiated by Prof. Y. T. Jasrai, Head, Department of Botany to include the various activities for the all round development of the students scheduled this year under one banner. The first in the series was arranged on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> July-2011 to address the need of financial planning by students. The staff and students of the Department participated actively during an interactive presentation by Ms. Palak Lotiya, Resource Person, SEBI on Financial Planning for Young Investors at the Botany Auditorium. Ms. Palak Lotiya is empanelled with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as a financial Literacy Resource Person. She is also associated

with a Business to Business (B2B) website as an Editor. Having worked with IIM, Ahmedabad as a legal research associate for an international project and visiting faculty at I.M. Nanavati Law College empowered her to introduce the topic very candidly and interact with the students to generate an interest and create awareness about their finances.

Students requested the guest speaker to guide them with their short term and long term goal with appropriate planning. Ms. Palak emphasized that merely earning was not sufficient to realize the dreams. Instead, one needs to plan and take care of the money so that the money saved, grows in such a way that in spite of inflation, one is secure financially.



GUBS-ECAP : 1. A step towards this was orienting the students towards a career in forestry. Miss Deep Contractor, recently selected for IFS, delivered a very informative and exhaustive talk on the thrills and frills of being a forester on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August-2011. It was a moment of pride for all present since after a dry spell of years, a Gujarati had finally made it to one of the most coveted services. Ms. Contractor gave a very lucid and informative presentation highlighting the significance of forest and the biodiversity therein. A quick peek into the endangered flora and fauna emphasized on the need to conserve forest areas in spite of the various anthropogenic and/or developmental pressures. This was followed by a detailed discussion on “How to prepare for the IFS exam” starting from the application to the syllabus and type of questions asked. She was kind enough to share an exhaustive list of reference material that should be used while preparing for the exam. The icing on the cake was in the form of preparations needed to face an interview-types of questions asked and common mistakes that should be avoided including verbal and non-verbal communications like body language. The presentation was followed by an interactive session. 2. A step in this direction for awareness towards better health

and grooming was taken up under GUBS-ECAP by a team of experts from Vandana Luthra Cosmetic Care –VLCC. The guiding vision of VLCC Group is “Transforming Lives through transforming self, spreading happiness and transforming future.



Ms. Hansa -Listening to beauty queries eating



Ms. Mamta - emphasizing healthy

The experts gave a very interactive and useful experience to the members of GUBS. They shared some useful tips to take care of the skin and hair for an overall pleasant personality. The need of a healthy lifestyle and good balanced eating habits were also discussed. The members showed great interest and interacted with the experts.

3. A visit to SRISTI (Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions) was arranged for the members of GUBS. **SRISTI** is a non-governmental organization setup to strengthen the creativity of grassroots inventors, innovators and ecopreneurs engaged in conserving biodiversity and developing eco-friendly solutions to local problems. The group was led by Ms. Urvi Gupta, Research Scholar from the department. The members got an opportunity to see the labs and understand the nature of activities at SRISTI.





Experts at SRISTI



Exploring SRISTI

1. Garba competition: The members of GUBS actively participated in the Garba competition during navratri. There were many prizes to be won and the enthusiastic “khelaiyas” were seen putting their best foot forward. A competition for the best rangoli, innovative toran making , creative arti thali and garba singing was also arranged for the members.



2. Essay writing and Elocution Competition: The members also actively participated in on-the-spot essay writing competition and elocution competition. A quiz competition was also organized with very exciting audio-video rounds besides the usual question rounds. GUBS encourages creativity among the members and acknowledges the same by appreciating the best. Best from waste was one such activity which allowed the members to showcase their ideas creatively.

3. Each one-Teach One: In the last week of 2011 GUBS organized Blossoms 2011 which was a week long program named as EACH ONE TEACH ONE in which members exchanged their skills. This initiative was taken to make members realize that every person is unique and has a unique talent.

4. A trip to Serenity Library - Ayurveda Garden - Akshardham and Sanskruti Kunj was arranged for the members of GUBS. Serenity library has a large area set aside as the Botanical Garden and are developing a medicinal garden as well. It also has an academic ambience in the form of a very spacious and rich library. The visit to Ayurveda Garden was also very interesting since Mr. Joshi, the resource person, shared his knowledge and told some interesting Indian mythology tales on names of trees. Akshardham, as always has been a favourite joint not only for refreshments but also for enjoying the beautiful and well maintained landscape with extensive topiary. Sanskruti Kunj at Gandhinagar had a big craft exhibition and artisans from different regions of India had assembled and displayed their unique craft work. There were lots of interesting items on sale and apart from regular food stalls there were traditional food stalls.

5. A workshop on Taxonomy was arranged at Serenity Library by **Dr. M.R. Almeida**, Retd. Professor, St.Xavier's College, Mumbai. He shared some amazing facts about plants and explained the distinction between medicinal plants and other plants. Alongside a visit to The Retreat Garden and Calico Musuem at Shahibaug was arranged. This place has plants belonging to more than 120 plant families and the whole garden is laid out very well for the benefit of not only curious visitors but also for the budding botanists.



Visit-Serenity Library



Visit - Ayurveda Garden

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